



Deutsches Institut für
Entwicklungspolitik



German Development
Institute



International
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**Invitation: 12th VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE COMMENTARY GROUP ON A
MULTILATERAL FRAMEWORK ON INVESTMENT FACILITATION FOR
DEVELOPMENT**

12 April 2022

Dear Madam/Sir,

We would like to invite you to participate in the 12th meeting of the Commentary Group on “*Green FDI: How can FDI help achieve climate goals?*”, that will take place virtually on 12 April 2022 from 9:00am to 10:30am Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), 15:00 to 16:30 Central European Time (CET).

As a reminder, the Commentary Group’s mandate is to provide input on the content of a new framework being developed at the WTO to facilitate cross-border investment and increase its development impact, as well as helping inform national, bilateral and regional investment facilitation efforts.

Against the background of the challenges of the climate crisis and the opportunities offered by new technology, the 12th meeting of the Investment Facilitation Commentary Group will focus on identifying the most important measures that policymakers can adopt to facilitate foreign direct investment (FDI) that contributes to achieving climate goals: ‘climate FDI’. Examples of such measures could include incentives, standards and reporting, guarantees, financial instruments, targeted investment promotion, etc.

The time is ripe for scaled up public-private collaboration to facilitate climate FDI for at least two reasons.

On the one hand, there is new evidence that green FDI can lead to a shift in environmentally friendly behaviour across the parent firm, in subsidiaries and by other domestic businesses through spillovers. This motivates the increase of green FDI – especially that targeted for climate goals – given its broad benefits beyond the specific investment.

On the one hand, there is new political commitment to implement the Paris Agreement and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) through investment: in the Glasgow Climate Pact, Parties agreed “to further scale up investments in climate action”, and leading business have shown commitment to these goals, for instance by launching the First Movers Coalition to grow zero-emission goods and services and build clean supply chains.

This meeting will therefore seek to ask investors and officials what measures are most important and effective when it comes to promoting and facilitating climate FDI.

The discussion will be informed by a draft mapping of climate FDI measures that will be shared with participants in advance of the meeting, with the suggestion that part of the meeting be structured as a review and reaction by participants of the potential measures.

The findings will then be shared through a summary report, which can inform the adoption of policies and measures by governments, as well as consideration by delegates currently negotiating an Agreement on Investment Facilitation for Development at the WTO. Importantly, it will also inform a scoping effort around public-private projects that can facilitate climate FDI in specific countries.

Moderator: Matthew Stephenson, Head, Investment Policy and Practice, World Economic Forum

Introduction: Kimberley Botwright, Head, Sustainable Trade, World Economic Forum – *“Introduction to new collaboration”*

Panellists:

Jennifer Blanke, Member of the Board, Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture, Switzerland and former Vice President for Agriculture, Human and Social Development of the African Development Bank Group – *“Governments and firms want to grow climate FDI”*

Lamberto Dai Pra, Head of Africa, Asia and Oceania, Enel Green Power – *“What firms need to carry out more climate FDI”*

Abhishek Saurav, Senior Economist, Investment Policy and Promotion, World Bank Group – *“Working with developing countries to grow climate FDI”*

Concluding remarks: Karl P. Sauvant, Resident Senior Fellow, Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI)

To join the meeting, kindly click on the link below shortly before 15:00 am CET on 12 April 2022 and follow the instructions.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

We hope that you will be able to participate and ask that you confirm your participation with Yardenne Kagan (ykagan@intracen.org).

With best regards,

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Background information:

Axel Berger and Karl P. Sauvant, eds., *Investment Facilitation for Development: A Toolkit for Policymakers* (Geneva: ITC, 2021), [available here](#).

UNCTAD-WEF, *Mapping of climate FDI measures*, March 2021, [forthcoming](#).

WEF, *Delivering a Climate Trade Agenda: Industry Insights*, September 2021, [available here](#).

Bios:

Jennifer Blanke

Jennifer Blanke is Member of the Board, Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture. Previously she was Vice President for Agriculture, Human and Social Development of the African Development Bank Group, based in Cote d'Ivoire. Earlier she was Chief Economist at the World Economic Forum, in Geneva, overseeing economic research activities. She has also worked as a management consultant in the banking and financial sector for Eurogroup Consulting (Mazars Group) in Paris. She holds a BA in International Relations from Hamilton College, a Master of International Affairs from Columbia University, and a PhD in International Economics from the Graduate Institute, Geneva.

Kimberley Botwright

Kimberley Botwright is the Head of Sustainable Trade at the World Economic Forum where she oversees programmes related to circular trade, trade and climate change and sustainable supply chains. Previously, she has worked at the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD,) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Kimberley holds an M.A. in European Economics and Policy from l'Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po) and a B.A. from the University of Oxford. She is fluent in English and French, and is a citizen of the UK and Switzerland.

Lamberto Dai Pra'

Lamberto Dai Pra' is Enel Green Power's Head of Africa, Asia and Oceania area. He has been part of the Enel Group since 1991 and has worked in various sectors related to both traditional and renewable electricity generation. He began his career as an engineer in Enel's Construction Division. In 1999, he transferred to the Business Development and M&A areas in the International Division. He then held roles in Business Development for Eastern Europe, New Countries and Solar Photovoltaic, as well as General Manager in France and South Africa. He was born in Goa, India in 1966. He received his degree in Chemical Engineering in 1990.

Abhishek Saurav

Abhishek Saurav is a Senior Economist with the Global Investment Climate Unit of the World Bank Group's Finance, Competitiveness & Innovation Global Practice. He leads policy research on FDI and initiatives to shape the investment climate and competitiveness agenda in developing countries. This includes the pathways to increase investment for environmentally sustainable private sector growth. He holds a doctorate in Public Policy and Public Administration from the George Washington University, master's degree in public policy from the George Mason University, and bachelor's degree in information technology from the University of Delhi, India.

Karl P. Sauvnt

Karl P. Sauvnt introduced the idea of an International Support Program for Sustainable Investment Facilitation in the E15 Task Force on Investment Policy in 2015. From there, the proposal was taken forward in the WTO. He has written extensively on this subject (see <https://ssrn.com/author=2461782>), participated in various events relating to it and currently assists the ITC and DIE on a project on Investment Facilitation for Development. He retired in 2005 as Director of UNCTAD's Investment Division and established, in 2006, what is now the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI). He stepped down as the Center's Executive Director in 2012, to focus his work, as a CCSI Resident Senior Fellow, on teaching, research and writing.

Matthew Stephenson

Matthew Stephenson is Head of Investment Policy and Practice at the World Economic Forum, where he manages the Global Investment Policy and Practice initiative. Previously, he worked at the IFC, where he led the workstream on outward FDI. He has also worked at the OECD on Africa and investment and served as a diplomat for the U.S. Department of State, leading the economic team on Afghanistan and managing economic programs in the Middle East. He is a member of the T20 Task Force on Trade and Investment. He has a PhD from the Graduate Institute in Geneva, a master's from the Harvard Kennedy School and a bachelor's from Oxford University.